(c) Issuance of commemorative postage stamp on Guru Arjun Dev is subject to the recommendations of the Philatelic Advisory Committee and other administrative considerations. Details of the stamps issued so far on the ten Sikh Gurus are as under:—

| | Name of Sikh Gurus | Date of issue |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Guru Gobind Singh Ji | 17.01.1967 |
| (ii) | Guru Nanak Dev Ji | 23.11.1969 |
| (iii) | Guru Teg Bahadur Ji | 16.12.1975 |
| (iv) | Guru Amar Das Ji | 21.12.1979 |

**Telephone exchanges in Maharashtra**

1654. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of all the district of Maharashtra particularly in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Pune, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more telephone exchanges in the said districts of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, a total of 4241 telephone exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are set up in rural areas of Maharashtra. Of these, 162 telephone exchanges are in rural areas of Ratnagiri, 99 in Sindhudurg and 210 telephone exchanges in rural areas of Pune. District-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The rural areas of Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri and Pune SSAs in Maharashtra telecom circle are planned for complete coverage by CDMA Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology.

***Statement***

*District-wise details of Telephone Exchanges set up in rural areas as on 30.06.2006 in Maharashtra*

| Sl.No. | Districts | Number of Exchanges |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ahmednagar | 311 |
| 2. | Akola | 76 |
| 3. | Washim | 49 |
| 4. | Amaravati | 118 |
| 5. | Aurangabad | 143 |
| 6. | Beed | 127 |
| 7. | Bhandara | 47 |
| 8. | Gondia | 54 |
| 9. | Buldana | 108 |
| 10. | Chandrapur | 87 |
| 11. | Dhule | 81 |
| 12. | Nandurbar | 44 |
| 13. | Gadchiroli | 42 |
| 14. | Jalgaon | 193 |
| 15. | Jalna | 90 |
| 16. | Kalyan | 109 |
| 17. | Kolhapur | 280 |
| 18. | Latur | 138 |
| 19. | Nagpur | 107 |
| 20. | Nanded | 113 |
| 21. | Nasik | 210 |

| Sl.No. | Districts | Number of Exchanges |
|---|---|---|
| 22. | Osmanabad | 82 |
| 23. | Parbhani | 57 |
| 24. | Hingoli | 44 |
| 25. | Pune | 210 |
| 26. | Raigad | 136 |
| 27. | Ratnagiri | 162 |
| 28. | Sangli | 311 |
| 29. | Satara | 207 |
| 30. | Sindhudurg | 99 |
| 31. | Solapur | 235 |
| 32. | Wardha | 71 |
| 33. | Yeotmal | 100 |
| | TOTAL | 4241 |

**Funds collected from telecom operators**

†1655. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Universal Obligation Fund has been created by charging 5 per cent amount from telecom operators from their annual turnover;

(b) if so, the total amount deposited in the said fund till June, 2006; and

(c) the average amount deposited in the said fund during each of the recent years and an average amount being spent annually?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.